

B² At page 25, lines 4-6, please replace the abstract with --The present invention provides methods for modulating, e.g., inhibiting, the activity of MSH5.--.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 18-21 without prejudice and amend claims 15 and 16 as follows:

B³ Sub C1
15. (Amended) A method for modulating [the activity of MSH5] MSH5 expression or activity comprising contacting MSH5 or a cell expressing MSH5 with a compound [which binds to MSH5] in a sufficient concentration to modulate [the activity of MSH5] MSH5 expression or activity.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the expression or activity of MSH5 is inhibited.

Please add new claims 22-31 as follows:

22. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a contraceptive agent.

23. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is capable of modulating MSH5 expression.

B⁴ 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is an antisense MSH5 nucleic acid molecule.

25. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a small molecule.

26. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is an MSH5 antibody.

27. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptide.

28. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.